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Clinicoetiological Study of Nosocomial Sepsis in Dermatology Ward

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Background: Patients admitted in dermatology ward are highly susceptible to nosocomial sepsis due to extensive denudation of skin with loss of protective barrier in several dermatoses and frequent and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immunosuppressives. The mortality in dermatology ward can predominantly be ascribed to sepsis, directly or indirectly. There is paucity of data on epidemiological and etiological profile of sepsis in dermatology inpatients. This study was undertaken to study the incidence, etiology and antibiotic sensitivity profile of nosocomial sepsis in skin ward.

Methods: All patients developing nosocomial sepsis, defined as presence of two or more SIRS (Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome) criteria plus detection of focus of infection after 48 hours of admission, were inducted. They were assessed for risk factors, monitored for systemic complications and blood and other relevant specimens were sent for culture and antibiotic sensitivity testing.

Results: During study period, 40 of 860 inpatients (4.65%) developed nosocomial sepsis, majority suffering from vesicobullous diseases (42.5%), erythroderma (25%) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (22.5%). Of these, 17 (42.5%) developed severe sepsis and 15 (37.5%) died. Total number of deaths during study period due to all causes were 22; thus sepsis contributed to 68.2% of deaths. Significant risk factors included use of immunosuppressives, presence of fever before admission, diabetes, smoking and concomitant systemic illness. The commonest gram positive organism isolated from all specimens was methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Gram negative isolates were acinetobacter, pseudomonas and klebsiella. On sensitivity testing, MRSA showed high sensitivity to vancomycin, linezolid, teicoplanin and rifampicin. Gram negative organisms were sensitive to cefoperazone+sulbactam, piperacillin+tazobactam, imipenem and meropenem.

Conclusions: Sepsis incidence was 4.65% in dermatology ward. Death occurred in 37.5% of these cases. Sepsis developed in patients with dermatoses involving large body surface area. MRSA was the commonest organism isolated. Antibiotic sensitivity pattern helped to formulate appropriate treatment guidelines.

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Knowledge and Performance of the Universal Precautions Among Yemeni NursesA.A.K. Thabet^{1,*}, A. Abdulrab¹, S. Awdhaly², F. Amrani¹, N. Al-Jaber¹¹ College of Medicine, Thamar, Yemen² College of Medicine, Thamar, Yemen**Keywords:** Universal precautions; Yemen

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to examine the level of knowledge and performance of the universal precautions among Yemeni nurses, to outline educational and training needs and focus on possible activities to remedial action.

Methods: this survey was carried out at Al-Whadah University Hospital in Thamar governorate during May through July 2007. A total of 84 nurses participated in this study and completed the written questionnaires. The response rate was 100%.

Results: The average knowledge of the universal precautions was 173.77 ± 47.02 (scores ranged from 75 to 225). The performance level average of the universal precautions was 54.18 ± 14.53 (scores ranged from 28 to 70). The findings of these 3 items ("I do not dispose the needles as crooked or cut", "I always wear a mask when there is a risk of being contaminated with the blood or body fluid of a patient", "I always wear a protection goggle when there is a risk of being contaminated with patient blood or body fluid") showed that the level of knowledge and performance of the nurses were very low. The correlation between knowledge and performance of the universal precautions showed strong and positive correlation ($r=0.707$, $p=0.001$).

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that nurses' knowledge and performance level of the universal precautions was relatively high, but at the same time, they had a wrong understanding of some items. So that it reveals a definite need of stepping up educational and motivational methods for the use of the universal precautions by health workers in hospitals.

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Estimation of Occupational Exposure to Blood and Body Fluid Among Healthcare Trainees

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Introduction: Blood and body fluid (BBF) exposure is among the most important occupational hazard that medical personnel face each day. The risk for such exposure is greatest during the training and initial years of professional practice. Stressful work situations and cumbersome procedures for reporting often contribute to under reporting of such injuries. This study from Christian Medical College, a training institution in southern India, attempts to estimate the incidence of such occupational injuries amongst trainee doctors.

Methods: Institutional rules mandate reporting of all occupational exposure BBF. HIV and HbsAg status of index